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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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BangaloreMirror
Saturday, January 11, 2025
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Even 1 drink a day is injurious to health

Expert on how alcohol affects the body breaks down new report that indicates even 1-2 drinks can increase chance of cancer

Many people use the new year to reflect on their relationship with alcohol. Just-released government guidelines are giving Americans another reason to consider a "dry January."

Over the past few decades, mounting scientific evidence has shown that as little as 1-2 alcoholic drinks per day can lead to increases in the likelihood of several cancers. This prompted the US surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, to release a new Surgeon General Advisory on January 3, 2025, warning about the link between alcohol and cancer. This report highlighted the evidence and included a call for new cancer warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

The association between alcohol and cancer isn't new news – scientists have been trying to determine the link for decades – yet most people aren't aware of the risks and may only associate drinking with liver disease like cirrhosis. In a 2019 survey from the American Institute for Cancer Research, less than half of Americans identified alcohol as a risk factor for cancer.

Alcohol is the third-most preventable cause of cancer in the U.S, putting it just behind tobacco and obesity. As the surgeon general's report highlights, alcohol is associated with approximately 100,000 cancer cases and 20,000 cancer deaths every year, playing a role in breast, liver, colorectal, mouth, throat, esophagus and voice box cancer cases. Alcohol-induced cancer deaths outnumber alcohol-associated traffic crash fatalities every year.

The report included the suggestion to add warning labels to alcohol similar to what is already required for tobacco products – another substance of abuse known to cause cancer.

As a neuroscientist specialising in the neurobiological effects of alcohol use and binge drinking, I am glad to see the call to action for reducing alcohol consumption in the United States.

Key takeaways of the report

With so few people aware of the links between alcohol consumption and various cancers – and the fact that the vast majority of people consume some alcohol every week – it's easy to see why the surgeon general is calling for greater awareness. The 22-page report highlights what scientists know about the relationship between alcohol and cancer, and suggests actions for moving forward. Those include label changes on alcohol, which have not been updated since they were created in 1988.

Somewhat strikingly, breast cancer carries a large portion of this risk – making it particularly worrisome in the face of increased alcohol use among women.

These numbers don't only apply to heavy alcohol drinkers. While less alcohol is better, 25% of these cancer cases were in people classified as moderate drinkers – consuming, on average, fewer than two drinks per day. This means that anyone regularly drinking alcohol, even small amounts, should know about and understand the risks.

Surgeon general's advisories are the primary way that the Department of Health and Human Services, where the Office of the Surgeon General resides, communicate health issues of great importance to the public. Surgeon general's advisories are not necessarily breaking news, but they take the opportunity to bring public awareness to science surrounding big public health issues.

The science behind the link between alcohol and cancer

The relationship between alcohol and cancer has been clear to scientists for decades. In fact, it was highlighted in a 2016 surgeon general's report as well, which focused on addiction more broadly.

The new report outlines the different types of evidence supporting this link. One way is through epidemiological science, which tries to understand patterns and relationships between the rates of cancer and how much alcohol people consumed. Another is through experimental animal studies, which allow scientists to understand the mechanism and causality of these connections as they apply to specific cancers. Together, studies conclusively show a link and pathway between alcohol consumption and cancer.

The surgeon general's report highlights four key pathways through which alcohol can cause cancer. These largely focus on the ways alcohol can negatively affect your DNA, the building blocks of cells. While the healthy cells in your body divide all the time, their abnormal growth can be driven by aberrant factors like alcohol-induced DNA damage.

This DNA damage leads to uncontrollable growth of tissue instead of healthy, normal tissue growth. This abnormal tissue growth is cancer. The four pathways through which alcohol can lead to cancer highlighted in the report are:

- The body naturally breaks alcohol down into acetaldehyde. Acetaldehyde can damage and break DNA, leading to chromosomal rearrangements and tumors. This link is so strong that acetaldehyde has been classified as a carcinogen since 1999.
- Alcohol creates reactive oxygen species. Reactive oxygen species, sometimes called "free radicals," are unstable molecules that contain oxygen and can further damage DNA, proteins and fats.
- Alcohol can influence hormones, like estrogen. Alcohol can raise the amount of estrogen in the body, which may explain its link to breast cancer. This increased estrogen can influence breast tissue by causing – you guessed it – DNA damage.
- Alcohol is a solvent, which means other things can dissolve in it. This makes it easier for carcinogens from other sources – like cigarettes and e-vapes – to be absorbed by the body when the two are consumed together.

Is any amount of alcohol safe?

The biggest question on people's minds right now is likely "how much alcohol can I safely drink?" and the answer to that might disappoint you – probably none.

Alcohol use remains one of the most preventable risk factors for cancer. And even moderate alcohol consumption – one or fewer drinks per day – may elevate cancer risk for some types, such as breast, throat and mouth cancers.

But none of these studies can tell you what your individual risk for cancer is. The relationship between alcohol and cancer can be influenced by your genes, such as those that control the enzymes that metabolize alcohol, and other lifestyle factors that influence the rates of cancer broadly, like diet and inflammation. All of these lifestyle and personal health factors can influence how risky alcohol consumption is for you.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that if you choose to drink, consider sticking to less than one, for women, or two, for men, standard servings of alcohol per day – which might be smaller than you think, and don't binge drink alcohol at all. The surgeon general is also suggesting a rethinking of these guidelines to include updated limits on daily alcohol consumption and greater educational efforts around the link between alcohol and cancer.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has similar recommendations around limiting alcohol consumption and advises that for people who choose to drink alcohol, "the less, the better".

The institute offers tips on its website for managing your alcohol consumption or abstaining from alcohol consumption altogether, including finding alternative hobbies and activities, identifying what leads to your urges to drink and having a plan to handle urges, and identifying a strategy for saying "no" to an alcoholic beverage in social settings.

Nikki Crowley, Penn State, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Hottest year

Hot 2024
Earth recorded its hottest year ever in 2024, with such a big jump that the planet temporarily passed a major climate threshold, several weather monitoring agencies announced Friday.

Over the limit
Last year's global average temperature easily passed 2023's record heat and kept pushing even higher. It surpassed the long-term warming limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s that was called for by the 2015 Paris climate pact, according to the European Commission's Copernicus Climate Service, the United Kingdom's Meteorology Office and Japan's weather agency.

Measurements
The European team calculated 1.6 degrees Celsius (2.89 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming. Japan found 1.57 degrees Celsius (2.83 degrees Fahrenheit) and the British 1.53 degrees Celsius (2.75 degrees Fahrenheit) in releases of data coordinated to early Friday morning European time.
American monitoring teams — NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the private Berkeley Earth — were to release their figures later Friday but all will likely show record heat for 2024, European scientists said.

Reasons for rising heat
"The primary reason for these record temperatures is the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere" from the burning of coal, oil and gas, said Samantha Burgess, strategic climate lead at Copernicus. "As greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere, temperatures continue to increase, including in the ocean, sea levels continue to rise, and glaciers and ice sheets continue to melt."
The last 10 years are the 10 hottest on record and are likely the hottest in 125,000 years, Burgess said. —AP

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BITTER MEDICINE

State urges Centre to improve information-sharing, empower authorities to stop substandard pharmaceuticals from coming in

PAGE 3

TROUBLED WATERS

Green tribunal rap to govt agencies over severe contamination in 12 water bodies and failure to respond to its queries

PAGE 4

Implementation and rehab flaws defeat purpose of Act that prohibits begging; of 30 people 'caught' in the prohibited act this year, 13 cases were in November

LAY DOWN YOUR ALMS

Cases involving children and mothers referred to Women & Child Welfare Dept

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Begging remains a persistent issue in the city despite the Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975, which officially bans the practice. Across Bengaluru, individuals begging at traffic signals and public spaces paint a stark contrast to the legal prohibition, underscoring gaps in enforcement and rehabilitation efforts.

The Nirashrithara Parihara Kendra (NPK), a prominent beggar rehabilitation centre on Magadi Road, has recorded that a total of 2,160 individuals have been detained as of 2024. This figure includes 722 cases carried over from previous years. Among the detainees, 1,346 individuals have been released, which includes 19, who passed away. Currently, the facility is home to 814 individuals, comprising 701 men and 163 women, who are being protected and treated.

On the same line as these numbers, data from the Karnataka Police reveals that 30 individuals have been reported under the Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975, until November this year. Alarmingly, 13 of these cases were reported in November alone, highlighting a recent surge in such incidents.

> **"Many individuals return to the streets due to inadequate follow-up support and a lack of sustainable rehabilitation programmes. The legislation must also address the issue of what happens when these individuals inevitably resume begging**
>
> —Social activist

The Social Welfare Department, in coordination with the Central Relief Committee, addresses public complaints about begging through a 24/7 helpline (94823 00400). Upon receiving a complaint, officials document and rescue individuals found violating the Act, presenting them before the District Magistrate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Fluoride alert

Pollutant exceeding permissible limits in samples of water from 19 districts in state, including B'luru Rural

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Central Ground Water Board's (CGWB) recent report on groundwater quality in Karnataka has revealed widespread fluoride contamination – with nearly 17% of the samples from 19 districts in the state, including Bengaluru Rural, exceeding the permissible limit of the pollutant.

Out of 345 wells studied, 61 wells recorded high concentrations of fluoride with the maximum value of the pollutant reaching 6.44mg/l.

Districts that recorded high levels of fluoride include Ballari, Bengaluru Rural, Bijapur, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Kalaburagi, Haveri, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysuru, Raichur, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Vijayanagara, and Yadgir.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recommended an upper desirable limit of 1.0 mg/L of fluoride in drinking water, which can be extended to 1.5 mg/L in case no alternative source of water is available.

In Karnataka, the number of districts with fluoride levels above the permissible limit has remained constant over the past

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Veena concert

Heritage beku veena concert, a concert to revive the heritage and tradition of veena music is being organised to take you back in time by the mesmering music by Anirudha Bhat on the mridangam, Balu Masti on the veena and Bhargav Halambi on the Khanjira.

Where: Cubbon Park bandstand; When: January 12, 8 am

02 Vegan festival

Namu Recommends, India's largest vegan festival is here in Bengaluru. This isn't just another market—it's a vibrant festival experience designed to delight, inspire, and celebrate plant-based living in a fun and engaging way. The Veganuary Festival combines community, entertainment, and education to create an immersive experience. **Where: Chamara Vajra; When: January 18 and 19, 12- 9 pm**

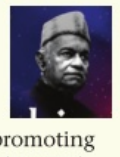
03 Comic con

Comic Con India, the largest pop culture celebration in the subcontinent, is set to make waves by ringing in the New Year with its much-awaited 12th edition in Bengaluru. This highly anticipated edition promises a two-day extravaganza. **Where: KTPO Whitefield; When: January 18 and 19**

04 Japan Habba

Attend the biggest celebration of Japanese culture in India. For its 20th anniversary, Japan Habba celebrates "Everything Japan." Japan Habba is home to 4+ stages, 30+ events and experiences, and 70+ stalls and experience zones that bring the sights, sounds and tastes of Japan to Namma Bengaluru. **Where: Chamara Vajra; When: January 12, 10 am**

05 Classical music mesmer



Acharya Devo Bhava is a 2-day celebration of Indian classical music, organised by the Kailas Sangeet Trust to honor the birth centenary of the legendary Acharya Bimalendu Mukherjee. The trust is committed to promoting young upcoming artists, supporting instrument makers, and nurturing the musical community. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: January 11 and 12, 6 pm and 4.30 pm respectively**

Lohri celebrations begin

Several Punjabi communities are gathering to celebrate Lohri in their traditional style as way to remember their home

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Residents of Prestige Shantiniketan apartments celebrating Lohri (File photo)

Punjab communities in Bengaluru are coming together to celebrate Lohri with traditional fervor. The festivities include bonfires, folk songs, dance performances like bhangra and giddha, and sharing festive foods.

Jannak R Madaan, Punjabi Sabha, Bengaluru, said, "Lohri is a significant festival for Punjabis, marking the harvesting season and the beginning of longer days. The bonfire is a central part of the celebrations, symbolising the burning away of negative energies and welcoming positive, new ones."

The Punjabi Sabha celebrates Lohri with great enthusiasm and fervor every year. The festivities typically include lighting a bonfire, singing and dancing around it with friends and family. Lohri celebrations are complete with a band, Bhangra troup, and DJ Vipul khurana with traditional food, which completes the evening of Lohri. This year they plan to celebrate on January 12 at the Royal Orchid Hotel, Old Airport Road. Several other Lohri festivals are celebrated across Bengaluru.

Jannak said, "Lohri, the vibrant harvest festival of North India, will be celebrated this year on January 13, 2025. Also known as 'Lohadi' or 'Lal Loi', this joyous occasion is widely observed in Punjab and neighbouring states like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi. Rooted in Hindu and Sikh traditions, Lohri is marked by lighting a sacred bonfire, offering prayers, and sharing festive treats."

He added, "It is a time to express gratitude for the bountiful harvest and seek prosperity and blessings for the year ahead. The festival signifies the end of the winter sowing season, paving the way for an abundant harvest. Devotees honour the Sun God (Surya Devta) and the Fire God (Agni) through prayers and offerings. Lohri symbolises the transition to longer, warmer days, falling just a day before Makar Sankranti."

The Lohri ki Thali is a spread of delectable dishes that symbolise abundance, prosperity, and togetherness. It typically consists of dishes like Sarson da Saag and Makki di Roti, Gajak and Rewri, Moongfali and Gud Chikki, Dahi Bhalle, Til and Gur Delicacies, Aloo Gobhi, and Panjiri.

> **"Bengaluru stands as a testament to the world's ever growing interconnectedness and cosmopolitan spirit** – Rajesh Wadhwa

Many restaurants and hotels are coming forward with exclusive lohri dishes for the people. "Bengaluru stands as a testament to the world's ever-growing interconnectedness and cosmopolitan spirit. Our vision was to create a sanctuary for those who find themselves far from their homes in Punjab or other northern states—a place where families can gather, reconnect, and savour the flavours they hold dear. From the vibrant, seasonal Saag and the quintessential Makki ki Roti to the delicate Sarson Ke Phool and the indulgent, soul-soothing Badana & Rabri, every dish is a heartfelt celebration of tradition. The meal ends with a delectable traditional note of the authentic rewri & gajak. We take pride in honouring the cultural richness of harvest festivals, bringing to life the cherished culinary heritage of Punjab and beyond," said Chef Rajesh Wadhwa, Loya Taj West End Bengaluru

Shaikh Imran Arif, Indian Master Chef, at The Ritz-Carlton, said, "We have curated a special menu to showcase the finest produce from India's agricultural heartland. From dishes like Bajra Makai Ki Pulao, Dal Pakwan Chaat, and Kacche Kele Masala, tender lamb simmered in a rich spinach gravy, to heartwarming traditional desserts like Til Ki Chikki and Coconut Jaggery Gujiya, each dish has been thoughtfully crafted to celebrate the spirit of the season."

State-of-the-art cath lab inaugurated

Dr Sharanprakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, inaugurated several new facilities at the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) on Tuesday. The event took place at Victoria Hospital and Minto Hospital, marking significant advancements in medical infrastructure and education. The trauma care centre at Victoria Hospital now houses a state-of-the-art DSA cath lab, the first of its kind in India, designed specifically for trauma care. Manufactured by IITPL, a joint venture between VJ Technologies (USA) and Involution Healthcare (New Delhi), the lab is equipped to perform advanced procedures such as coronary angiography, cardiac and cerebral interventions, stroke management, and interventional radiological procedures. Dr Balaji Pai, special officer for trauma and emergency, said, "This cath lab enhances services in areas like cerebral angiography, aneurysm coiling, and stroke management. It also includes a dedicated ward with eight beds and pre- and post-procedure facilities. The lab is named after Egaas Moniz, the inventor of the angiogram." — BMB

SC won't hear recruitment scam kingpin's bail plea

The apex court rejected on Thursday to hear the bail application of RD Patil, also known as Rudragouda, challenging the Karnataka High Court's ruling from August 31, 2024, which had denied him relief in a recruitment examination malpractice case. During the proceedings, Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih permitted senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, who represented Patil, the alleged mastermind of several recruitment frauds, to withdraw the petition. The court granted permission for filing a fresh petition after a one-year interval.

The accused allegedly participated in examination fraud using electronic equipment, particularly Bluetooth devices, across various Karnataka government recruitment processes. The authorities arrested the accused on November 10, 2023, and charged him under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act.

The High Court had previously refused relief after noting his involvement in numerous examination malpractice cases, including the Junior Engineering Examination, and others. — BMB

Unleashing Values

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State urges centralised system for drug monitoring

Karnataka urges Centre to improve information-sharing and empower local authorities to effectively curb substandard pharmaceuticals from other states

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Karnataka has urged the Centre to improve information-sharing between drug control departments across states and public procurement agencies. Currently, there is no centralised database for drug inspectors or procurement officials to verify the track record of pharmaceutical manufacturers, particularly those based outside their state.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has raised concerns about the growing incidence of 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ) drugs across the country, citing a recent tragedy in Ballari district where five young mothers reportedly died due to contaminated drugs manufactured by a West Bengal-based pharmaceutical company. In a letter to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Rao pointed out that the existing regulatory framework under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, of 1940, allows pharmaceutical companies from one state to distribute their products across the entire country without adequate oversight from the states receiving the drugs.

Rao highlighted the challenges faced by states like Karnataka in preventing the flow of substandard drugs from other states, noting that drug inspectors in Karnataka have limited jurisdiction over manufacturers outside the state. He referenced data from the Karnataka State Drug Laboratories, which revealed that out of 894 samples tested over the past two years, 601 failed tests, with most of the offending products originating from manufacturers based outside the state. "The only recourse available to us is to prosecute the pharmaceutical company, but criminal proceedings are slow, and there is little we can do in the interim to prevent the continued sale of these drugs," he explained.

Health Minister recommends drug labs share their results in single database

To address this issue, Rao proposed several reforms to enhance the regulatory process and ensure better quality control of pharmaceuticals in the country. One key suggestion was to improve information-sharing between drug control departments of various states and public procurement agencies. Currently, there is no centralised database for drug inspectors or procurement officials to verify the history of pharmaceutical manufacturers, especially those located outside their state. Rao recommended that all central and state drug testing laboratories share their results in a single, accessible database. This would allow drug inspectors across India to track the number of times a company's drugs have failed quality tests, thereby enabling more effective enforcement and procurement decisions.

Another critical reform proposed by the Karnataka Health Minister is the creation of a central register that tracks pharmaceutical manufacturers blacklisted for supplying NSQ drugs. This would help weed out unreliable suppliers and improve the quality of drugs available in government hospitals. Rao also suggested that state drug controllers should have the legal authority to block manufacturers under investigation for selling harmful drugs from continuing to sell in their state until the issues have been rectified.

Rao acknowledged that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, of 1940, being a central legislation, restricts the ability of individual states like Karnataka to implement these changes. He urged the Union Government to take the initiative in enacting legislative reforms that would empower states to safeguard the health of their citizens more effectively.

Auto driver murder: 7 held

The KP Agrahara police have arrested seven individuals, including two minors, in connection with the death of Kushal, a 24-year-old auto driver. Kushal had been hospitalised after a altercation with friends during a party on January 1. The group of eight friends had gathered for drinks, and an argument broke out when Kushal grabbed a bottle from the cupboard. This led to a scuffle, escalating into a brutal attack.

The attack left Kushal with severe head injuries, and he was rushed to KC General Hospital for treatment. Despite the medical efforts, he died from his injuries on Thursday morning.

Man stabs father-in-law

A man murdered his father-in-law and stabbed his wife and a neighbour on Wednesday in Metro Layout. The woman's father, 58-year-old, Allah Bhakash, succumbed to his injuries on Friday morning. Saleem Pasha was involved in an argument with his wife and when his father-in-law and neighbour stepped in, Pasha grabbed a kitchen knife and attacked them. The victims were rushed to nearby hospital. However, Bhakash's condition worsened, and he passed away from his injuries on Friday morning. The police have registered a case of murder.

Polluted lakes, defective reports: NGT puts agencies under scanner

Green court criticises Karnataka authorities for inaction on lake pollution, citing dangerously low oxygen levels and severe contamination in 12 water bodies

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KSPCB's Nov 2023 report shows 12 lakes with oxygen levels below detection

The National Green Tribunal has rapped various government agencies for their failure to file responses as directed by the tribunal nearly a year ago.

In January 2024, the principal bench of NGT took suo-motu cognisance of a news article published by Bangalore Mirror in its December 26, 2023 edition. The article was based on the monthly water quality report of 117 Bengaluru lakes and tanks by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). After filing the case, NGT directed Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (KSPCB), and Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA)to file their responses on high pollution levels. However, while KSPCB and KTCDA have not followed the directions, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) submitted a defective report, which has been returned by the green court.

"The report filed by them (BBMP) is returned by the Registry due to certain defects. Let the defects be rectified and the report be uploaded before the date of the next hearing. Despite passage of more than a year, after notice was given to the state authorities, so far no reply has been filed, even when such serious matters like water bodies in the city are in a critical stage is brought to their knowledge," said NGT in its recent order. The tribunal has now directed these agencies, including the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to file their action taken report before the date of the next hearing, failing which, NGT will take instructions directly from the authorities concerned.

The news report in BM on the monthly water quality report of the lakes by KSPCB highlighted that in November 2023, 12 water bodies in the city recorded oxygen concentration 'below detection level'. These lakes included Madiwala, Herohalli, Karihobanahalli, Dasarahalli, Varthur, Uttarahalli Doraikere, river Dakshina Pinakini near Mugalur, Devarabeesanahalli, Rampura, Kammasandra, Chandapura, and Hosakerehalli. While the level of dissolved oxygen in these water bodies was found to be below 0.3mg/l (below detection level), the lakes also had high levels of pathogen-based contamination (total and faecal coliform bacteria). As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a water body that can used as a drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection should have a total coliforms organism level at 5,000 MPN/100ml, DO value of 4mg/l or more, and BOD OF 3 mg/l or less. However, in some of these lakes, the total coliform level was as high as 2,30,00,000 MPN/100ml.

> **"Despite passage of more than a year, after notice was given to officials, so far no reply has been filed, even when lakes are in critical stage** – NGT

KSPCB's analysis also showed that none of the 117 water bodies in the city had all water quality parameters meeting desirable levels.

New lights, trails, and kalyani: Kaggadasapura Lake gets makeover

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Top: Walkway illuminated with tubular lights; Below: Landscaping and planting of saplings were done using the MLALAD fund at Kaggadasapura Lake

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department has commenced the construction of a kalyani, waste weir, and sluice gates at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. The kalyani is being built in front of the Jalakanteswara Temple on the lake's land, with work currently in progress. "Around 100 tubular lights were installed on December 25, 2024, on the occasion of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birthday. We have also done landscaping and planting of saplings by using the MLALAD (Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development) Fund. Another 100 tubular lights will be installed in 45 days. The development of Kaggadasapura Lake is my dream project. We are constructing a gazebo and a waste weir cum footbridge and also installing an aerator," said CV Raman Nagar MLA, S Raghu.

MLA Raghu said the desilting and de-weeding of the lake is completed. "The construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) is in progress. There is a plan to construct a waste weir and sluice gates. We have already taken up the construction of kalyani," the MLA said. The MLA said that most of the walkway is completed. "A stretch of the walkway is pending and it will be completed shortly," he said.

Many people have expressed their gratitude to MLA S Raghu and the BBMP Lakes Department for undertaking the rejuvenation of the lake. "I have been residing at Kaggadasapura for more than two decades. The lake was in a bad condition. MLA S Raghu has taken the initiative to develop the lake now. Initially, there were some legal issues. However, all those hurdles were cleared and the development of the lake is in progress," said Ashok S, a resident.

Ravindra N, a resident of Maruthinagar, said the lake has become a destination for walkers. "Many of us used to visit Vibhutipura Lake for a walk when Kaggadasapura Lake was not in good condition. Now, the construction of kalyani will add value to the water body. Now, we can see many birds visiting the lake," said Ravindra.

BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Nithya said, "The kalyani work is in progress and it is expected to be completed by June."

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Tree blockade
Lottegollahalli

Unauthorised tree branch cutting has left debris blocking the footpath near Lottegollahalli, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and residents. Authorities are urged to act swiftly.

Broken gate
Austin Town

The main gate of Austin Town Park's entrance is broken, posing a potential safety hazard. Authorities are urged to prioritise fixing it to prevent accidents.

Fallen tree
Mother Teresa Road

On Mother Teresa Road, opposite Rashtriya Military School, a fallen tree is blocking the footpath and forcing pedestrians to walk on the road, creating a safety hazard.

India-wide campaign kicks off to eradicate child labour

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has directed state governments and Union Territories to organise rescue and rehabilitation campaigns to eradicate child labour in the country from January 10 to March 31.

The NCPCR said that the pan-India rescue and rehabilitation campaign 2.0 shall focus on rescuing children and adolescents engaged in different labour-prone areas in the districts including small and big establishments such as factories, dhabas, industries, hotels, shops, organised and unorganised sectors such as mines, brick kilns, and construction sites.

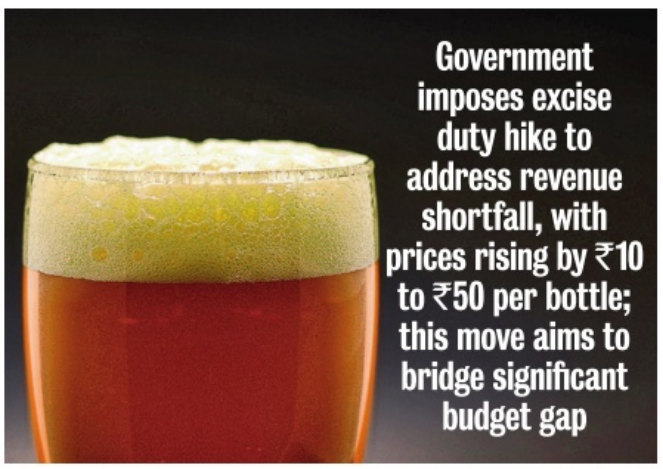
"Moreover, rehabilitation of children will be ensured as per the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The deputed Nodal Officer of the District Task Forces, under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrates, must exercise all or any

of the powers and perform all or any of the duties as per section 17C of Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 1988, throughout the Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign," the NCPCR notification read.

The NCPCR notification has received a mixed response from child rights activists. Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust said, "Including the education department in this initiative is crucial, as out-of-school children are more likely to become child labourers. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue of child labour, with many children being forced to work due to economic hardships. It's heartening to see that the public has become more sympathetic to the plight of child labourers during this time. People must call 1098 to inform about child labour."

Stating that no information was given on organising the rescue, Renni D'Souza, president of the Child Welfare Committee, Dakshina Kannada District has described the rescue and rehabilitation campaign as a good initiative. "The positive point of this campaign is including adolescents. There are many adolescents working as labourers in Dakshina Kannada but no authentic data on the number of adolescent labourers. The need of the hour is to involve all stakeholders to ensure proper rehabilitation of child labourers rescued during the campaign," he said.

Pricey beer to help tackle fiscal strain



Government imposes excise duty hike to address revenue shortfall, with prices rising by ₹10 to ₹50 per bottle; this move aims to bridge significant budget gap

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To address the shortfall in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, the Karnataka government has announced a hike in beer prices ahead of the state budget. Despite the decline in sales of Indian Made Liquor (IML) and beer, the government has imposed an additional excise duty, significantly impacting beer enthusiasts. Consequently, prices will rise by ₹10 to ₹50 per bottle, depending on alcohol content. For instance, the popular Bullet Beer, currently priced at ₹98, will rise to 145. The revised rates take effect on January 20.

August proposal formalised

In August 2024, the government released a draft notification to revise excise duties on beers based on alcohol content. The proposal had been prepared and submitted for the Chief Minister's approval but faced delays. Now approved, the government has issued the order to implement the increase.

Revenue targets under strain

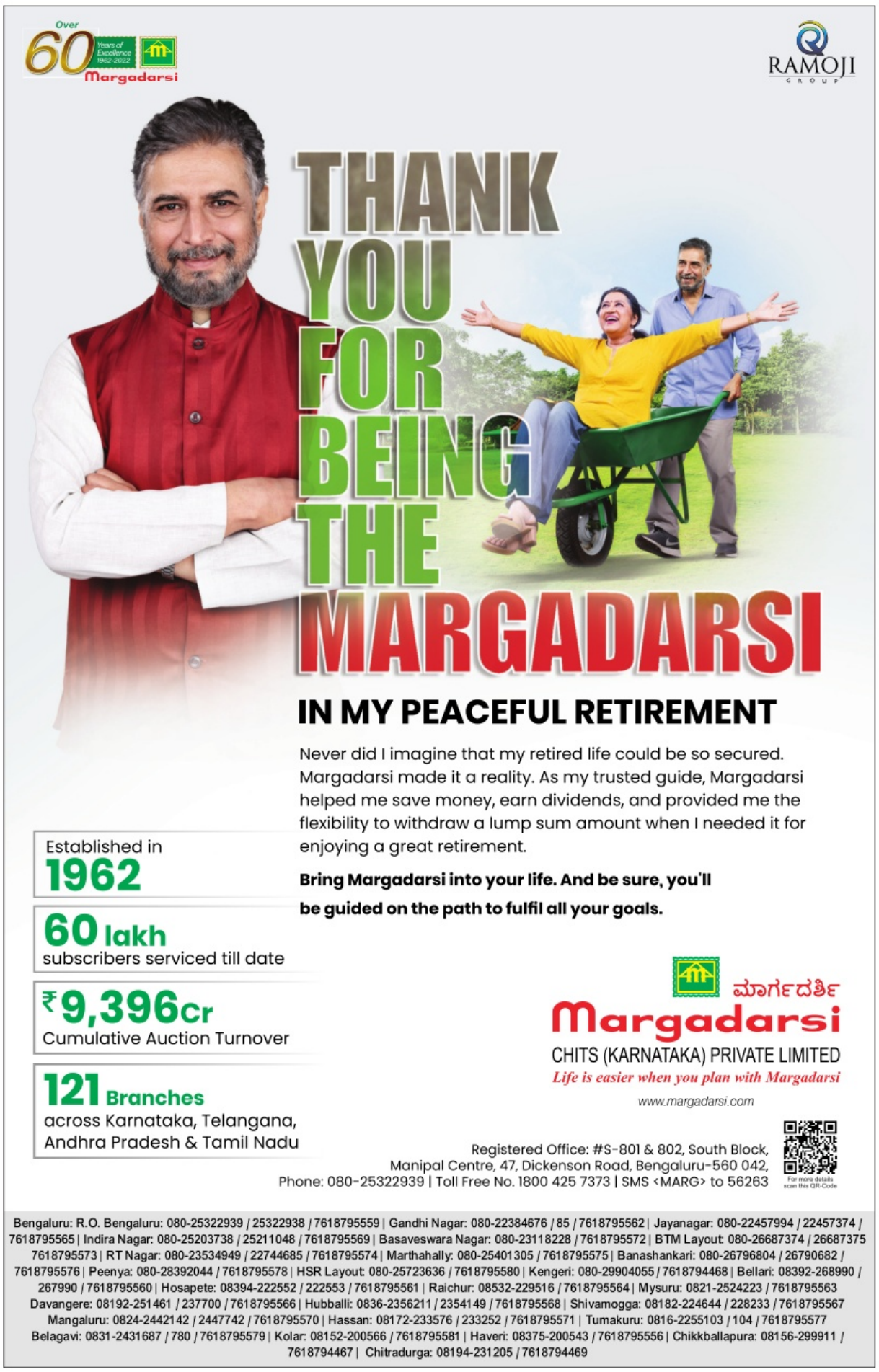
The state had set an ambitious revenue target of ₹38,525 crore for the excise department in 2024-25. However, by December 31, only ₹23,733 crore had been collected. With just three months remaining, collecting the remaining ₹15,000 crore is challenging. Industry insiders estimate a potential shortfall of ₹7,000 crore, making this price hike essential to bridge the gap.

Decline in liquor sales

Sources said that the current fiscal year has seen a decline in liquor sales. Despite rationalising IML prices to remain competitive with neighbouring states, sales have not shown improvement. IML sales dropped by 1.07 % in the first three quarters (April-December) compared to the previous year, while beer sales increased by 8.22%.

Indirect boost to IML sales

The increased excise duty on beer is seen as a strategy to promote IML sales, which generate higher revenue for the government. While beer sales attract lower excise duty, boosting IML sales can lead to doubled revenue collection. "The government's decision to increase beer prices aims to offset revenue losses and indirectly encourage IML consumption," said Nagarajappa, Joint Commissioner, Excise Department.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Fluoride contamination rampant in our waters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

several years (between 2015 and 2023). This suggests that the groundwater quality with respect to fluoride contamination in the states has not undergone improvement or deterioration in the number of affected districts over the years.

Experts say over-exploitation of groundwater is the prime reason behind high levels of fluoride.

As per the report, a significant number of water samples exceeding the permissible limit of fluoride are concentrated in areas categorized as over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical.

It also suggests that monsoon recharge led to a reduction in fluoride concentrations. Out of 31 pre-monsoon samples exceeding the limit, 22 showed improvement, and 11 samples fell below the permissible limit after monsoon recharge.

Other contaminants observed

High levels of uranium (more than 30 ppb) have also been recorded in Kolar, Raichur, and Tumakuru and were found clustered in areas identified as over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical groundwater stress zones.

However, the state recorded a significant drop in the number of districts with uranium contamination exceeding the permissible limit in 2023 compared to 2019.

Gadag and Raichur recorded high values of Arsenic (As > 10 ppb) in groundwater at one or more locations.

Out of 345 samples analysed, 169 samples in 27 districts also recorded higher levels of nitrate (more than 45mg/L) in groundwater.

Moreover, a significant proportion of water samples across Karnataka also showed high electric conductivity (EC value exceeding the permissible limit of 3,000 µS/ cm as per BIS). More than 14% of the samples were found severely affected.

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I, Harish Kumar R, father of Sriraam H, aged 9 years, resident of #695, 1st floor, Guruprasad, 16th main road, 38th cross, 4th T block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560041, hereby declare that my minor son's name has been changed from Sriraam H to Sriraam Harish Kashyap with effect from 11-12-2023. Henceforth, my minor son shall be known as Sriraam Harish Kashyap for all purposes. Harish kumar R 8451053458

I Hariprasad Reddy K S/o Balakrishna Reddy Kotakondla R/o No.85/10, 3rd floor, 8th Main, Vinayaka lyt, Doddanekkundi Extn, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name from Hariprasad Reddy K to Hariprasad Reddy Kotakondla for all future purposes

I, SRINIVASAN BADRINATH, S/o Srinivasan, residing at No. 22, 6th Cross, A.G.B Layout, 2nd Stage, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560096 have changed my name to BADARINATH SRINIVASAN, vide affidavit dt:10-01-2025 before notary Natesh D, B.lore.

I, MALLAPPA S/O SIDDAPPA R/o NO 1/40 Siddapur B Siddapur B MT palli Mitatipdampalli Gurmitkal Yadgir-585214. I have changed my name to MALLIKARJUN vide affidavit dated: 09/01/2025 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore

I, Shailaja P w/o Vireen Vodapalli R/o No.821, 1st floor, 10th A main, 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to Kavya Sri Vodapalli Affidavit Dt.09/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, RAGINI GULAB JHA W/o NIRBHAY KUMAR JHA R/o Flat no BG 245, Block N GM E City Town Near Smondo Ville Thirupalya Road Electronics City Phase-1 Bengaluru-560100. I have changed my name to RAGINI NIRBHAY JHA vide affidavit dated: 09/01/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

I Suresh Kumar Ayyappan Pillai R/o #73,BMT Marutham Garden Somapura Gate, Sarjapur Road, B'luru-562125 have changed my minor daughter name from Kaniha Suresh to Kaniha Pillai for all purposes.

I, Timmanna S/o Anneppa Timmanna Bokke R/o 11186, Prestige Jindal City Apt Nagasandra,Chikkabidarakallu, B'luru-560073 have changed my name to Timmanna A Bokke for all purposes

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#57/17, **"HAJ BHAVAN"**, Thirumenahalli Village, Hegde Nagar Main Road, Bengaluru-560064
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Sl No.	Short Term -Tender Notification
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	Tender documents can be obtained from **09-01-2025** to **16-01-2025 up to 02.00PM https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

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They beg to differ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rescued individuals are quarantined to assess their health before integration and groups are segregated based on health and demographics to prevent disease spread.

Rajendra JP, Superintendent of NPK, explained to BM the criteria for detaining and rehabilitating individuals at the centre. "The Act clearly defines begging as a state of deprivation where a person asks for money or food. It specifically applies to males above 16 years and females above 18 years, who fall under the Act's provisions. The centre can only detain individuals within these age limits," he said. Cases involving children found begging, or a mother with a child or infant, are referred to the Women and Child Welfare Department, which handles such situations.

He further elaborated that the centre offers more than six skill development courses and training programmes tailored to the individuals' interests, mental condition, and ability to reintegrate into society. Based on a magistrate's assessment, typically the Bengaluru North Tahsildar, their stay at the centre is either terminated or extended after one year.

More prone to human trafficking and sexual abuse

The recurring sight of children, women, and elderly individuals on the streets raises pressing concerns about the effectiveness of current strategies to address begging. While the state has established facilities like rehabilitation centres and helpline numbers, critics argue that these measures fall short of addressing the root causes or providing sustainable reintegration pathways into society.

"The law's intent to protect and rehabilitate beggars is commendable, but there are significant gaps in its execution," said a city-based social activist. "Many individuals return to the streets due to inadequate follow-up support and a lack of sustainable rehabilitation programmes. The legislation must also address the issue of what happens when these individuals inevitably resume begging," the activist emphasised.

Highlighting a grave concern, the activist pointed out that women and children on the streets are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and sexual abuse and called for for a more comprehensive approach to tackle this issue.

Bakery worker attacked, 2 held

A bakery worker was allegedly assaulted following a dispute over payment for cigarettes. The Sanjay Nagar police have arrested two individuals, including an auto driver.

The accused, Guru (28), a resident of Benganahalli and a private firm employee, and Vishwas (30), an auto driver from Bhupasandra, were taken into custody after CCTV footage of the incident surfaced online.

The altercation occurred on January 8, at a bakery in Bhoopasandra. Guru and Vishwas reportedly demanded cigarettes from the bakery employee, Ashok. When they got the cigarettes, they refused to pay and allegedly made derogatory remarks.

When Ashok insisted on payment, the situation escalated, leading to the duo storming into the bakery and assaulting him before fleeing the scene. The assault was captured on the bakery's CCTV camera. The footage, which was widely circulated on social media, prompted the Karnataka Labour Council to condemn the attack and urge authorities to take swift action.

Sanjay Nagar police registered a case based on the footage and launched an investigation, leading to the arrests. **BMB**

Man kills elder brother

A man allegedly murdered his elder brother late on Wednesday night at Anwar Layout under the KG Halli police station limits. The accused Akbar Baig is said to have attacked his brother Akram Baig with a knife after he came home drunk.

Akram's family had been dealing with ongoing issues due to his behaviour as he would consume alcohol daily and mistreat his mother. On the night of the incident, Akram arrived home drunk and got into a violent argument with their mother.

The situation escalated when Akbar's elder son arrived at the house. In a fit of anger, Akbar, got a knife from the kitchen and attacked Akram.

Akram was rushed to the hospital with severe injuries but later succumbed to his wounds. The KG Halli police registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. Akbar Baig was arrested. **BMB**

Lokayukta raids

A team led by the Lokayukta and Upalokayuktas raided 54 offices of the Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Friday following complaints about irregularities in issuing e-Kathas and failure to act against illegal constructions. The operation began at 3.30 pm.

The raids highlighted widespread administrative lapses. At the Hebbal Sub-Division office, 21 of the 22 staff members had signed the attendance register, yet only three were present. The Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) was also absent. Inspections at the KR Puram Division unearthed unaccounted cash-whom had recorded the amounts in cash declaration forms. **BMB**

Long working hours can impact workers' health

70 hours or 90 hours a week? Trade union condemns statements

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@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Trade unions have strongly condemned the recent statements made by SN Subrahmanyan, Chairman of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) that employees should work 90 hours a week and even on Sundays. This comes soon after co-founder of Infosys Narayana Murthy had said that in order to increase work productivity in the nation and increase India's competitiveness, young Indians should put in up to 70 hours a week of labour. Other business titans like Bhavish Aggarwal of Ola, Sajjan Jindal of Jindal Steel Works Group publicly supported the proposal for a 70-hour work week.

"Emboldened by the Modi government's brazenly pro-corporate policies, corporate houses are freely issuing such statements that show utter disregard towards the working class, including their physical and mental well-being. Moreover, the Corporates also have illegally made 12-hour work a norm, particularly for contract workers," a statement from AICCTU said. "The 8-hour work day is a product of great struggle, one for which lives were sacrificed. India's legalised 8-hour working day came with the 1946 Amendment to the Factories Act of 1934 – a result of the Bill introduced by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar as Labour Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council," it added.

One of the serious impacts of long working hours is on the health of the workers. Several studies have linked long working shifts to negative impact on general health, including problems with cognitive anxiety, musculoskeletal disorders, sleep disturbance, and stress. There is also the associated fatigue created by excess working hours that also spreads to other organs affecting the neuromuscular mechanism leading to reduced sensory perception, less attention, reducing the ability of discrimination, weakening the muscles, reducing the gland secretions, reducing the heartbeat or irregular heartbeat, and dilating the blood vessels. "There is enough evidence now that longer working hours badly affect the occupational health of workers," AICCTU said.

> **The 8-hour work day is a product of struggle, one for which lives were sacrificed** –AICCTU

It is important to note that not only does working longer hours not ensure increased productivity, but in fact reduces productivity. Data confirms that shorter working days and better pay improves productivity and even profits, and several countries are in fact moving towards a six hour work day.

North Bengaluru: Booming hub for real estate development in city

With the shifting of the airport from HAL to Devanahalli, North Bengaluru is seeing a surge in real estate development, emerging as one of the most sought-after regions for both residential and commercial investments. The rapid transformation of this once overlooked area can be attributed to several key factors, including improved infrastructure, the presence of tech hubs, strategic connectivity, and future developments like the upcoming second airport. All these factors combined are making North Bengaluru an attractive destination for property buyers, investors, and developers.

A major catalyst for this surge is the strategic location of North Bengaluru. The area is well-connected to key business districts like Hebbal, Yelahanka, and the upcoming Aerospace Park, which is rapidly becoming a prominent industrial zone. Additionally, North Bengaluru's proximity to the Kempegowda International Airport is a key driver for commercial real estate demand. The airport, one of India's busiest, has seen continuous expansion, fostering increased business activity in the surrounding areas.

Ravi Kumar, a real estate investor based in North Bengaluru, said, "The development of this region is exceptional, especially with the airport expansion and the construction of the outer ring road, making it an easy commute to other parts of the city. A few years ago, the area was not even on the radar for investors, but now it is witnessing a boom in residential and commercial property sales. The construction of the Namma Metro's North Extension Line, which will connect areas like Hebbal and Yelahanka to the city centre, is expected to boost connectivity and reduce travel time to other parts of Bengaluru. This project, along with other major road upgrades and the proposed Peripheral Ring Road, is expected to enhance connectivity and further cement North Bengaluru's place as a hub for business and residential growth."

Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International airport

Another significant factor contributing to the real estate boom in North Bengaluru is the rapid growth of the IT and technology sectors in the region. The presence of tech parks and commercial spaces and upcoming developments in the Aerospace Park has created a large demand for housing and office spaces. North Bengaluru is now home to some of the most prominent multinational companies, which in turn has attracted a workforce eager to live close to their workplaces.

"North Bengaluru has evolved into a prime business location. We are seeing a consistent demand for office spaces and high-end residential projects due to the presence of global companies in the region. This is pushing property prices upward and driving development at an unprecedented pace. The government's focus on promoting infrastructure and industrial growth in the region has further spurred development," added Kumar. **–Prakash VL**

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Bengaluru leads India's record office leasing in 2024

Bengaluru's office leasing market reached historic highs in 2024, accounting for a remarkable one-fourth of India's total office transactions, as per the latest India Real Estate—Office and Residential (July–December 2024) report by Knight Frank India. The city recorded a staggering 18.1 million square feet (mn sq ft) of office space absorption, marking a 45.1% year-on-year (YoY) growth—the highest among all Indian markets.

Bengaluru takes lead

Bengaluru's robust leasing activity was propelled by its position as a hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which occupied 52% of the city's total transactions, amounting to 9.3 mn sq ft. Flex space leasing also surged to 4.3 mn sq ft, a 52% YoY increase, reflecting the city's growing appeal for co-working solutions. Third-party IT services contributed 1.9 mn sq ft, solidifying Bengaluru's standing as the top choice for tech companies.

India's office market breaks records

The report said that India's office leasing activity soared to a historic 71.9 mn sq ft in 2024, a 20.8% YoY increase and 19% higher than the pre-pandemic peak in 2019. This unprecedented growth is attributed to India's economic resilience, strong GDP growth, and its emergence as a global business hub.

In 2024, India-facing businesses emerged as a key driver of the office market, contributing 36% of total transactions with a remarkable 25.9 mn sq ft of space absorbed. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) occupied an impressive 22.5 mn sq ft, with Bengaluru leading the way, accounting for 41% of the GCC market. Flex spaces also experienced robust growth, with leasing activity surging by 52% year-on-year to 15.7 mn sq ft, driven largely by demand in Bengaluru and the National Capital Region (NCR), which together accounted for over 50% of this segment's uptake.

Among individual markets, Bengaluru maintained its dominance with a record-breaking 18.1 mn sq ft of office space transactions. It was followed by NCR with 12.7 mn sq ft and Mumbai with 10.4 mn sq ft. Other notable performances came from Hyderabad, which recorded 10.3 mn sq ft, Pune with 8.0 mn sq ft, and Ahmedabad, which saw significant growth with 3.0 mn sq ft of transactions.

New completions and rental trends

According to the report, Bengaluru witnessed 12.4 mn sq ft of new office space completions in 2024, though this marked a 6.9% YoY decline. Despite this, demand outpaced supply, driving a 6% YoY rise in rentals, with average rents reaching Rs 92 per sq ft per month. Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director of Knight Frank India, remarked, "Bengaluru's record-breaking performance underscores its resilience and strategic importance in India's office market. The city's vibrant ecosystem, led by GCCs and flex spaces, positions it as a global leader in office leasing."

Outlook

New supply and increasing rents will play a crucial role in shaping the city's competitive edge, ensuring its position as a top choice for global and domestic businesses.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WELL SET

As the sun sets, our reader managed to capture this glorious image from the balcony of their home

The picture was clicked by reader **Guruprasad Murthy**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Sporty plan for BU: Arena for big events coming soon

Bangalore University to build sports complex for national, international competitions

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bangalore University is proposing to construct a 'Sports Complex' at its Jnana Bharathi campus to prepare students for national and international sports competitions. The decision to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the complex was made during a syndicate meeting. The construction of the complex will be carried out in phases, in accordance with the university's financial situation.

Currently, the Jnana Bharathi campus has large sports grounds, a gym, and a swimming pool, but these facilities are primarily used for the practical educational learning of students enrolled in B.P.Ed and M.P.Ed courses. The proposed sports complex aims to enhance sports training for the students of Bangalore University and the 245 affiliated colleges under its jurisdiction.

Officials said that the complex will include a synthetic athletics track, indoor sports facilities, and residential accommodations for athletes to help them prepare for state, national, and international competitions. In addition, the sports complex will host a variety of sports, including football, volleyball, and shuttlecock, and will provide a dedicated area for sports training.

Essential facilities for sports training

"The university has allocated 25 acres of land at Jnana Bharathi campus for the construction of the sports complex, which will include facilities for various sports and athletic training. A sports complex has been a long-standing demand. After the establishment of Bangalore University, the lack of a dedicated sports complex has made it challenging to nurture top athletes. In response, the university has decided to move forward with the creation of the complex and the preparation of the DPR. In today's competitive era, providing sports education to students is essential. Therefore, a sports complex must be built at the university, including the quick construction of a synthetic track. This will enable students to receive world-class sports training," said a BU official. The estimated cost for the construction of the sports complex is Rs. 50 crore. Consequently, the university has decided to proceed with the construction under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Proposed complex will include a synthetic athletics track, indoor sports facilities, and accommodation

DID YOU KNOW?

A worker digging up clay in a southern England limestone quarry noticed unusual bumps that led to the discovery of a "dinosaur highway" and nearly 200 tracks that date back 166 million years, researchers said Thursday. The extraordinary find made after a team of more than 100 people excavated the Dewars Farm Quarry, in Oxfordshire, in June expands upon previous paleontology work in the area and offers greater insights into the Middle Jurassic period, researchers at the universities of Oxford and Birmingham said. "These footprints offer an extraordinary window into the lives of dinosaurs, revealing details about their movements, interactions, and the tropical environment they inhabited," said Kirsty Edgar, a micropaleontology professor at the University of Birmingham — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Tanmay Bakshi not recruited by Google for ₹66L salary at age of 13

| Factly.in

Claim: Tanmay Bakshi, a 13-year-old Indian, has been recruited by Google with a salary of Rs.66 lakhs per month.

Fact: Tanmay Bakshi was not recruited by Google at a salary of Rs.66 lakh per month at the age of 13. The viral video is old, dating back to 2017, and shows Tanmay Bakshi speaking on a TV show called AM. This viral video was originally posted by AM on their official Facebook page on 19 August 2017. When the video went viral in 2017 with the same claim, Tanmay Bakshi clarified on his X (formerly Twitter) account on 2 September 2017 that he was not working with Google or Facebook. Hence the claim made in the post is FALSE.

This video has been viral with the same claim on social media since 2017. The boy featured in the viral video is indeed Tanmay Bakshi, an AI prodigy and technological savant. According to Tanmay Bakshi's LinkedIn profile description, he currently works in collaboration with IBM. He is a software developer, author, speaker, and instructor at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Tokyo. Tanmay is also a popular YouTuber with a significant following of over 300,000 subscribers. He mainly posts tutorials on coding and web development. Prominent international media outlets such as Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, CNBC, and CBC have featured Tanmay.

Mr.Tanmai Bakshi, an Indian aged 13 years (entering into class 9) has been appointed by GOOGLE USA at a salary of Rs.66 lakhs per month.Pls watch his interview with Co.Officials....what a confidence...

When we went through Tanmay Bakshi's X (formerly Twitter) account, we found that when the same viral video went viral with the same claim in 2017, Tanmay Bakshi clarified on his X (formerly Twitter) account on 2 September 2017 that he was not working with Google or Facebook.

The viral posts also mentioned that the video shows an interview conducted by Google. However, the video shows Tanmay Bakshi speaking on a TV talk show called 'AM' on a New Zealand-based TV channel in August 2017, where he discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) and programming in detail. Tanmay also posted a link to this TV talk show video on his X (formerly Twitter) account on 24 August 2017. This viral video was originally posted by the 'AM' talk show on their official Facebook page on 19 August 2017.

Furthermore, we have contacted Tanmay Bakshi to confirm whether he is currently working for Google or if he was associated with Google at any point after 2017. To sum it up, Tanmay Bakshi was not recruited by Google at a salary of Rs.66 lakhs per month at the age of 13.

The story was originally published by factly.in (https://factly.in/tanmay-bakshi-was-not-recruited-by-google-at-a-salary-of-%e2%82%b966-lakhs-per-month-at-the-age-of-13/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

Nelamangala emerging as favourite destination for property buyers

Nelamangala, a rapidly developing town located on the outskirts of Bengaluru, has become a hotspot for property buyers. Once considered a quiet, suburban area, Nelamangala's strategic location, affordable real estate prices, and improving infrastructure have made it a preferred choice for homebuyers and investors. With the ongoing development of road networks, the upcoming second airport in the region, and the town's proximity to key business hubs, Nelamangala is poised to become one of the most sought-after real estate destinations shortly.

Nelamangala's prime location on the national highway connecting Bengaluru to Mumbai and Goa gives it a distinct advantage for property buyers. The peripheral ring road's development and the proposed highway expansion have made it an easily accessible location for those looking to buy property outside the city center. Real estate experts are noting the increasing demand for plots, apartments, and residential properties in Nelamangala, driven by these infrastructural improvements.

Raghavendra Kadur, a property buyer from Bengaluru, said, "I had been looking for a property on the outskirts of Bengaluru for some time, and Nelamangala was the perfect option. The area is peaceful yet well-connected to the city. The prices are significantly lower than in areas like Whitefield, which makes it an attractive choice for anyone looking to invest in real estate. The increasing demand for properties in Nelamangala is not just from local

buyers but also from those working in the city center. The town's proximity to industrial areas and manufacturing units makes it an ideal choice for people who prefer a peaceful living environment without being too far from their workplace. The town is also seeing a rise in residential developments catering to the middle and upper-middle-class segments."

Suresh Kumar, a real estate dealer based in Nelamangala, said, "Nelamangala is undergoing rapid transformation. We are seeing a steady increase in the number of people looking to buy properties here. Many buyers, particularly from the IT sector, are opting for Nelamangala due to its affordable prices and good connectivity to major workspaces in Bengaluru. The plans for a second airport at Nelamangala are expected to further drive property demand. Nelamangala is poised to see a surge in both residential and commercial property demand. Real estate dealers are already seeing early signs of this growth, with more investors and buyers showing interest."

Nelamangala's green spaces, the presence of reputed educational institutions, and the availability of basic amenities like hospitals, shopping centers, and entertainment hubs have made it a desirable place for families. Kumar added, "Nelamangala is quickly emerging as a favoured destination for property buyers, thanks to its strategic location, affordability, and ongoing developments. Nelamangala is poised to play a significant role in the city's real estate market, offering both long-term growth and quality living."

-Prakash VL

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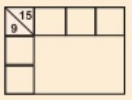
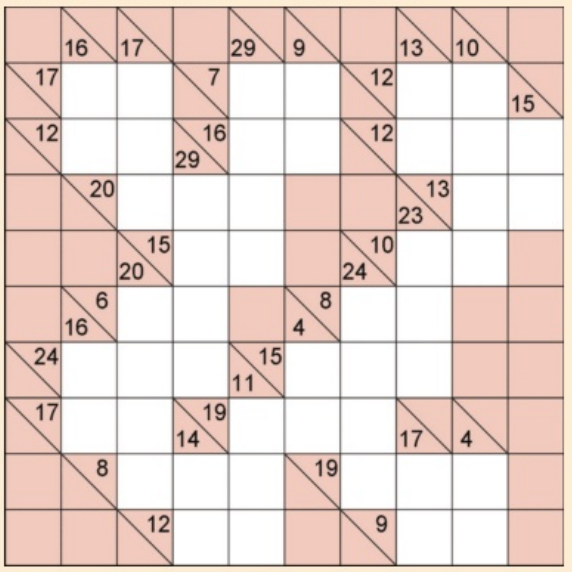
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

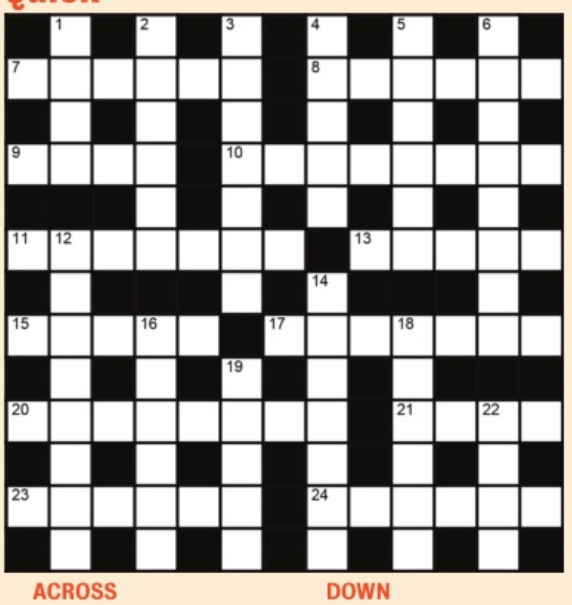


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Dull, drab and boring? (6)
8 Decide to leave or withdraw? (3,3)
9 Taj Mahal site (4)
10 Collapses and sinks (8)
11 Prospered or grew satisfactorily (7)
13 Fire residue (5)
15 Bengaluru ___ / Our Pro Kabaddi league side (5)
17 Writing implements (7)
20 Refrain from interfering with (3,5)
21 Football scrum (US) (4)
23 Exemplars (6)
24 Hand-gun (6)

DOWN

1 Rum drink (4)
2 Apple browser (6)
3 Hanged someone without a trial (7)
4 Successful actions (5)
5 Science of morals (6)
6 Dirge-like (8)
12 Domestic employee (8)
14 Written acknowledgement (7)
16 Hires out for a long period (6)
18 Light clear red (6)
19 Hang in suspense (5)
22 Marsh hen or duck (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS D

JB FQG VQM'E VDJUH FQGD OGTJMHTT, FQG CJAA OH VDJUHM QGE QB OGTJM_HTT.

Linemaro

Please don't go or I will have to complain to cops that you stole my heart

Mindchow

Don't pray for a lighter load, but a stronger back

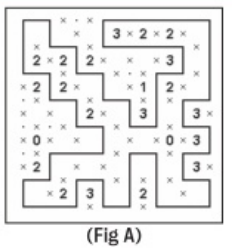
Joke of the day

Somewhere out there, there is a world with no war, no hate, no hunger, and no poverty...
...It also has no oxygen.

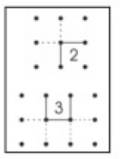
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

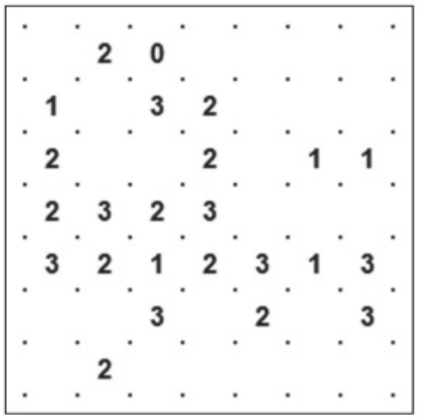


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

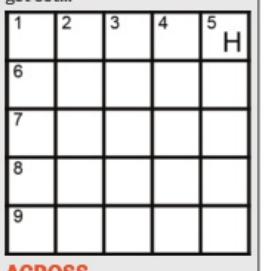


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 SS Hat; 6 Ellis;
7 A tree; 8 Pride;
9 Traps

DOWN

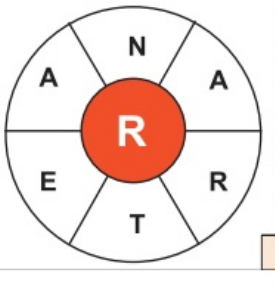
1 Spelt; 2 Air at;
3 Stair; 4 Peels;
5 Shred

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

2	1
3	1
4	6
6	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			6	3	7			
	6	7		8		5	3	
		3				2		
3			5		2			8
9		4				7		2
2			8		4			1
		9				8		
	3	5		2		4	6	
			3	1	6			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9
2 4 4 7

Medium = 5
2 4 6 7

Hard = 9
4 9 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

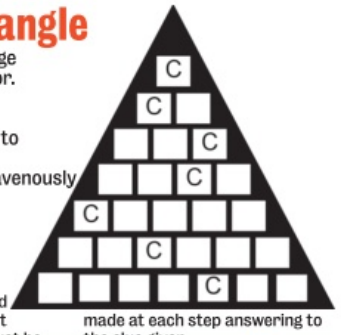
Differences: 1. Box is moved. 2. Collar is different. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Window is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Woman's hair is different.

Riddler

In this teaser, you are to start with the letter 'I' and then each time add a letter and shuffle it to make a new word. You need to continue this process until you reach the word 'CAMPING'. Not including 'I', you must do this in six (6) turns. I

Alpha triangle

1 Computer language
2 Common Era, abbr.
3 PC key
4 Denomination
5 Makes reference to
6 Most pleasing
7 Administers intravenously

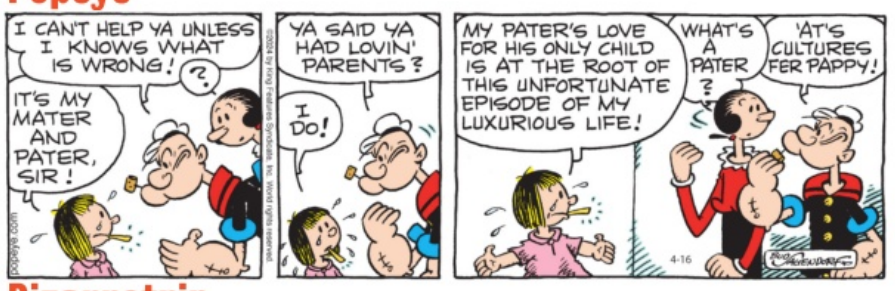


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


I CAN'T HELP YA UNLESS I KNOWS WHAT IS WRONG!
IT'S MY MATER AND PATER, SIR!
YA SAID YA HAD LOVIN' PARENTS?
I DO!
MY PATER'S LOVE FOR HIS ONLY CHILD IS AT THE ROOT OF THIS UNFORTUNATE EPISODE OF MY LUXURIOUS LIFE!
WHAT'S A PATER?
'AT'S CULTURES FER PAPPY!
4-16

Bizarrotrip

We made it, Cheeta-the peak of Mount Everest.
Wayno & Piraro 10-7-24
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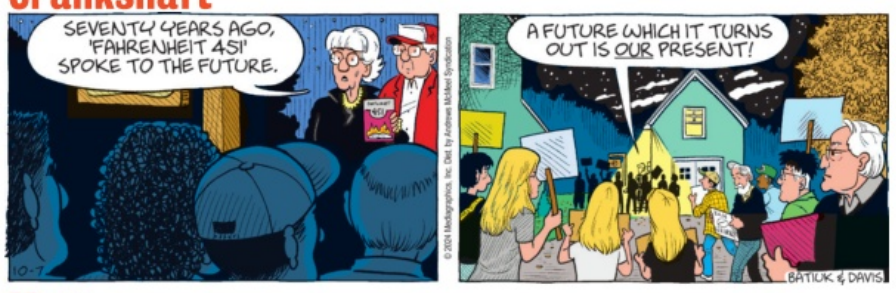
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEART, I DON'T CARE ABOUT TOBY. YOU'RE WELCOME TO HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM.
THANKS, BUT I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT RIGHT. I AM GETTING TOO CONCERNED WITH HIM.
NO BOY SHOULD DISRUPT MY JOURNEY TO STARDOM.
IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US.
TOO TRUE.
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, bringing you patience. Although you may face work-related stress, your calm and composed inner self will help you balance everything. You may enjoy both your work and domestic life. New sources of income may open up, boosting your financial health.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel dull today, and health issues could affect you. Sleeplessness might lead to arrogance, which could disrupt your domestic harmony. Your profits may turn into losses, so be cautious and think twice before making any financial decisions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel energetic. Your losses may convert into profits, leading to business growth. With the help of your subordinates, you may make some difficult business decisions. Your boss may support you, and you could expect incentives, which may increase your savings

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work, and with the help of destiny, you are likely to implement new ideas. Following rules and ethical practices in your dealings will bring you inner peace and strength.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, things are under control, and you may emerge from yesterday's messy situation. Your patience will be reflected in your work. Love birds may plan an outing, and students may focus on their goals. Singles may find love in the same community.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel dull and unhappy today, and mood swings could affect domestic harmony. Avoid arrogance at work to prevent creating hidden enemies. You are also advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel happy and spread positivity. Domestic harmony will be present, and you may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important professional decisions. New ventures or partnerships in business may arise.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The positive influence of the moon may make you happy and patient. Your performance at work may be good, and you could receive rewards in the form of incentives. Family health issues may be resolved. Job seekers are likely to find a suitable position. Love birds may enjoy their time together.

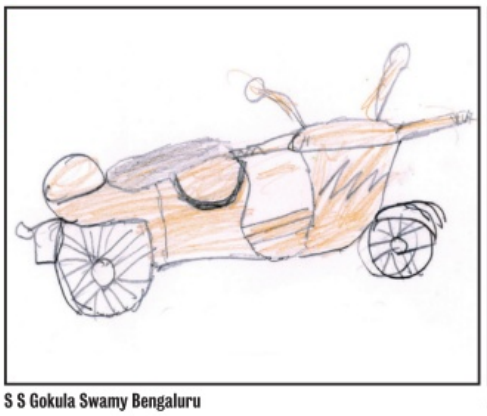
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may face mixed situations. Avoid expecting too much from others to prevent disappointment. You may engage in self-exploration and self-analysis, which will help you gain confidence and prepare you to face challenges.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Dissatisfaction may make you feel upset today. Lack of patience could affect your work, leading to silly mistakes. Practising meditation or yoga could help you find calm. You may also visit a religious place for peace of mind.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel energetic, and your speed of work may stand out. You may complete difficult tasks with ease. Disputes with siblings may be resolved, bringing happiness to your family. Your focus on your goals will lead to success in your work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the moon, you may expect some inherited assets. Your patience at work may increase your efficiency. You may be polite with people around you, and your communication skills may help you acquire new work opportunities for progress.

KIDZONE



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M = [(9√3+6√3+3√3)/(6√3)]² = (3²)² = 9

QUOTE UNCODE
If you don't drive your business, you will be driven out of business.

BULL'S EYE
area, arena, arrant, earn, errant, errata, NARRATE, near, rant, rare, rate, rear, rent, rerun, tear

FAST FIVE

S	T	A	S	H
L	I	S	L	E
P	R	I	E	D
E	A	T	E	R
T	A	R	P	S

STRIKE OUT

D	R	I	V	E	S	N	A	B	B	E	D			
E	N	Y	B	O	G	A	R							
N	U	M	B	E	D	M	U	D	D	L	E			
I	A		A	T	E	E	A							
E	S	T	A	V	O	N	I	G	O	R				
D	E	Y	R	I	E	A	N	G	R	Y				
O	D	E	A	G	L	A	D	O	B	I				
F	O	R	G	E	O	V	E	N	S	R				
C	O	N	T	H	E	G	O	A						
B	U	L	L	S	P	E	N	C	I	L	S			
T	H	R	I	V	E	D	A	S	H	E	S			
A	G	R	A	C	A	P	S	I	Z	E	S			
M	O	D	E	L	S	P	I	S	T	O	L			
L	E	T	A	L	O	N	E	R	U	C	K			
B	S	I	I	I	O									
S	E	P	C	E										
T	E	T												
G	S	E												

QUICK

G	S	L	C	E	F				
O	F	N	U	H	N				
D	R	E	A	R	Y	O	P	T	O	U	T
M	O	D	E	L	S	P	I	S	T	O	L
L	E	T	A	L	O	N	E	R	U	C	K
B	S	I	I	I	O				
S	E	P	C	E					
T	E	T							
G	S	E							

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Working from top to bottom, and reading each pair of boxes as a 2 digit number, add 10 to the first number to give the next one down, then add 15, and 20 to complete the sequence.

RIDDLER
I, In, Pin, Pain, Panic, Pacing & Camping

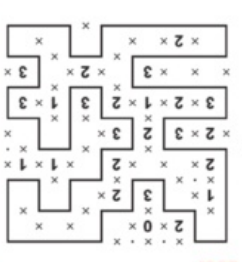
SUDOKU

5	9	2	6	3	7	1	8	4
4	6	7	2	8	1	5	3	9
8	1	3	4	5	9	2	7	6
3	7	1	5	9	2	6	4	8
2	5	6	8	7	4	3	9	1
9	8	4	1	6	3	4	5	2
1	3	5	9	2	8	4	6	7
6	2	9	7	4	5	8	1	3
7	4	8	3	1	6	9	2	5

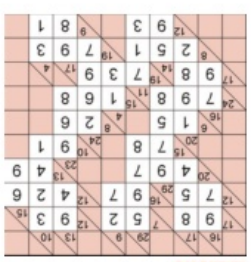
ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, CE, Esc, Sect, Cites, Nicest, Injects.

GO FIGURE
7 + 2 - 4 + 4 = 9
Easy
2 - 7 + 4 + 6 = 5
Medium
4 + 5 / 9 x 9 = 9
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # The race is on
Actor Ajith Kumar has said that he will not be signing any films until the racing season is on

What Sharvari would like to watch next

Actress Sharvari seems to be a big fan of actor Hrithik Roshan and said that she is really excited to watch the upcoming documentary series "The Roshans".

The upcoming series chronicles the trials and triumphs of Bollywood's iconic Roshan family — musician Roshan Lal Nagrath, Rajesh, Rakesh and Hrithik.

Sharvari took to her Instagram stories section where she re-shared a post by OTT giant Netflix, which had the poster "The Roshans", which is scheduled to stream from January 17.

Sharvari captioned it: "The Bollywood buff in mw is so excited to watch this".

The actress, who had a golden run in 2024 with "Munjya", "Vedaa" and "Maharaj", in December clocked the last working day of 2024 as she shot for an action sequence for 'Alpha'.

She shared a picture of her harness from the sets of the movie. She wrote on the picture, "Harnessing my last working day of 2024 energy #Alpha. Grateful for each working day of 24, A year that has particularly been a testing one.. Going to work has been my biggest blessing. has kept me motivated & going".

'Alpha' is produced by Aditya Chopra, and is a part of the YRF spy-universe. It is directed by Shiv Rawail, who is known for the streaming series 'The Railway Men' which was also produced by YRF.

It is the first female-led film from the spy-universe, and also stars Alia Bhatt and Anil Kapoor. The film's title was unveiled in a special video by the makers.

—IANS

Ties that bind

Kalki reveals tactic used by Ayan Mukerji that helped create a bond among his cast

Actress Kalki Koechlin revealed a smart tactic used by the director Ayan Mukerji which resulted in creating a friendly bond among the lead cast during the making of 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani.'

In a conversation with ANI, Kalki Koechlin who played the character of Aditi in the 2013 blockbuster--'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' recalled Ayan Mukerji's genius move of organising a road trip to Manali to break the ice between the film lead cast.

"One thing that Ayan Mukerji did was because we didn't know each other before the film. We didn't get much time for reading and all. Our first shoot location was Manali. So he decided to do a road trip from Delhi to Manali. He didn't let us fly. He arranged for two cars and there was Ranbir, Deepika, me, and Aditya in one car. He and other people are in another car. We did a road trip to Manali and this is how we got to know each other. "

The actress believes that a road trip made a huge difference and helped to create a good bond among the actors.

"Stopping at Dhabas, eating together, using the bathroom in small villages, talking about our life. We did everything. It's very different if you just take an hour's flight on business class and reach. So 8 hours in a car makes a huge difference. That was a very smart move from Ayan." added Kalki.

'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' was the fourth highest-grossing Hindi film of 2013. It was directed by Ayan Mukerji and starred Ranbir Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Kalki Koechlin and Aditya Roy Kapur in the lead roles. Kalki shared a fond memory from the movie. The actress said she and Deepika would often have competitive pranks with Aditya and Ranbir.

—IANS

Short rest break

Rashmika Mandanna is currently shooting for her next with Salman Khan. The film is titled 'Sikandar' and this is the first time that Rashmika has been paired opposite Khan. According to the latest update on the shoot, Rashmika has injured herself at the gym, and hence would not be able to shoot for some days.

A source has been quoted by Screen saying, "Rashmika recently sustained an injury in the gym and has been recovering well by resting. However, this has caused a temporary halt to the filming of her upcoming projects. Nevertheless, she's already feeling much better and will resume work on set very soon."

She has been advised by the doctors to take a short break before she gets back to the packed schedule of the movie. The film is reportedly in its final stage before it gets wrapped.

'Sikandar' directed by AR Murugadoss also stars Kajal Aggarwal, Rashmika, Sathyaraj, Sharman Joshi, and Prateik Babbar. The film is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and set to release on Eid 2025.

—ETimes

Quirks of life

Director Keshav Moorthy, who has handled the megaphone for Minchina Ota and Bhagyaraj, has selected a different concept for his third movie. The film has three stories that narrate a variety of habits and possessions of people. The meaning of the title is - You are responsible for your belongings. The movie deals with weaknesses of people including kleptomania and compulsive disorder.

The first story of the movie is about Inayath (Prasanna Shetty), a salesman with a wife and two children. Inayath borrows money and struggle to repay it. He then starts stealing two-wheelers. The second story is about Rohith (Madhusudan Govind) and Rathna (Apoorva Bharadwaj) who suffer from kleptomania. Their obsession to steal things makes them come close and finally they become a couple. The third story is about Albert (Dilip Raj) and his gang, specialised in honey trapping, who meet Jennifer aka Jenny (Shilpa Manjunath). Albert assigns Jenny to trap Sanketh Purohith (Hari Samashti) but she wants to be with Albert. You have to watch the movie to know what happens in these lives.

Post-intermission, especially the third story, is a bit of a drag, but the ending is worth it.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Prasanna Shetty, as a hapless husband who is in neck-deep in debt and suffers from compulsive disorder, has acted well. Apoorva Bharadwaj and Madhusudan Govind are equally good as kleptomaniacs. Their dialogue delivery and gestures deserve appreciation. Both will have a bright future in Sandalwood if they focus on their acting career. It is nice to see Dilip Raj on the silver screen after a two-year gap. As a leader of honey trapping gang, he has acted well.

Songs and background music are good. The cinematographer has done a good job.

Youngsters will enjoy this film.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Nimma Vasthugalige Neeve Javaabdaararu
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Keshav Moorthy
- **ACTORS** Dilip Raj, Prasanna Shetty, Madhusudan Govind, Apoorva Bharadwaj, Shilpa Manjunath, Hari Samashti
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 132 minutes

Ranbir attends cousin's 'Black Warrant' screening

The screening of Vikramaditya Motwane's upcoming release, 'Black Warrant', took place in Mumbai on Thursday and was attended by several celebs from B-town. The prison drama, starring Zahan Kapoor, the grandson of late Bollywood legend Shashi Kapoor, will premiere on Netflix.

Among the attendees was actor Ranbir Kapoor, Zahan's cousin. Ranbir posed for photos alongside Zahan and director Vikramaditya Motwane. The 'Brahmastra' actor looked dapper in a casual yet stylish denim-on-denim outfit. He wore a classic white T-shirt paired with a denim jacket and matching jeans, completing his look with white sneakers. The event was a star-studded affair with celebrities such as Ananya Panday, Pratik Gandhi, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ali Fazal, and others in attendance.

The makers of Black Warrant released the teaser in December last year. The teaser shows Zahan trying to survive as he learns to navigate the harsh realities of prison life.

—IANS